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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

DAILY 49ER

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SEAN BOYD | DAILY 49ER

Accounting majors help students with their VITA Tax Preparation in the CBA building now until Friday.

Accounting students offer free tax preparation

Students and community members who earned less than $50,000 in 0211 can use the program until Friday, March 23.

BY ALMA CAMERA
Contributing Writer

Accounting students are providing free income tax preparation on campus to students and community members now through March 23.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has trained accounting students to assist with income tax preparation, and all program volunteers are qualified to answer any tax-related questions.

"VITA is a great program because it helps low-income students and community members get their taxes done for free and the accounting students get real experience," accounting major and program coordinator Fatima Montes-Alvarez said.

The VITA program is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and funded through Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society.

According to Amanda Baldwin, accounting major and program co-coordinator, experienced coordinators, who have had additional training, check all documents before they are sent to the IRS.

"We can help you decide whether or not it's better to claim yourself, or if your parents should still claim you, so you'll get more money back," senior accounting major Alyssa Kanzaki said.

Montes-Alvarez said the VITA program helps accounting students gain confidence as they move on to paid positions in the accounting field.

Accounting majors involved in the

TAXES | Page 3

Students take back seat in GOP primary

Young voters consider issues, impact before taking part.

BY LEONARDO POAREO
Contributing Writer

As the 2012 Republican presidential primary season charges on, young college students aren't expected to play a decisive role in the presidential election.

"If you're a candidate and you rely on young people to vote for you, you're in trouble," said Robert Shurtz, a political science professor at Cal State Long Beach.

Instead, the younger generation tends to play a larger role in campaigns, and so volunteering "is the most important thing that younger people do in the political system," Shurtz said.

Although more young voters favor President Barack Obama over on-and-off Republican front-runner Mitt Romney, Republican candidates can still benefit from wooing these voters.

Senior graphic design major Alexandra Hanna said jobs were the most important issue in the election for her.

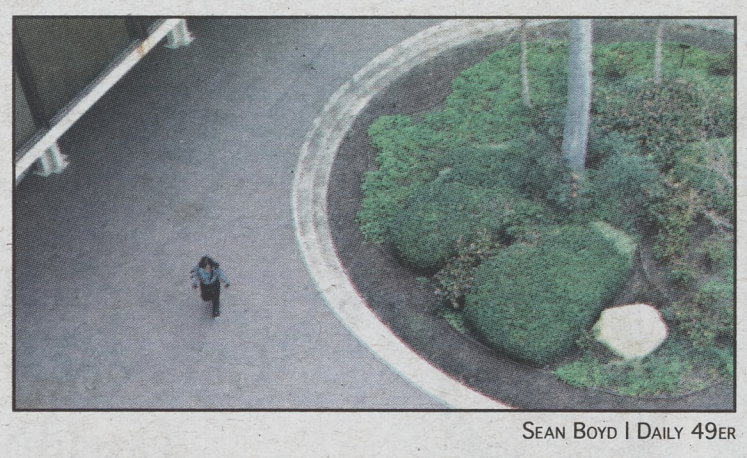
"When I get out of school, if there's no jobs, then I'm just sitting at home and I think that's what a lot of college

REPUBLICANS | Page 2

Economics, science majors form upper 1 percent

Some students pursue majors with money on the mind.

BY DIANA SANGLAB
Contributing Writer



SEAN BOYD | DAILY 49ER

Few college students will ever make it into the wealthiest 1 percent, but certain majors will boost that chance.

The majors that have the best chance of being in the top 1 percent earners of the country include premed, economics, biochemistry, zoology and biology, according to the Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey.

Lisa Grobar, an economics professor at Cal State Long Beach, was surprised to see economics at No. 2, but could see why it ranked so high as the curriculum is complimentary with a variety of different career paths, such as business and law.

"We often see that in the business cycle, we get more economics majors when the economy is in recession," Grobar said. "It's very interesting when we hire, because we have trouble sometimes trying to compete with the government since there are so many jobs. They tend to be high-paying, especially when you're looking at somebody with a Ph.D."

Brandon Hara, a junior economics major, said that he was going to major in business before he changed his mind.

"For me, to understand the business world, I had to know the basics first," Hara said. "With that in mind, I think it's pretty cool that economics made it on the list. We understand how money works, and this means that I'm probably going in the right direction."

As to why the sciences are doing so well, Grobar said that students don't seem to want to do the hard sciences so relatively few students earn those degrees, and thus demand is high.

Allen Vu, a sophomore biology major, said he is not surprised by the results either, knowing the financial

TOP 1% | Page 3

Quiet lounge offers room for prayer, meditation

The room in the USU prohibits cellphone, computer use.

BY JULIE CHUNG
Contributing Writer

The University Student Union has opened a new lounge for students who need a quiet space to pray, meditate or study.

After months of discussing the installation of the quiet lounge, Associated Students Inc. Senator Ojaala Ahmad was given permission to put her proposal into motion this semester.

Located in Room 308 of the USU, the quiet lounge consists of one love seat, four chairs, one table and spacious floor room for prayer or meditation. The lounge, built with many windows, provides a large view overlooking the west side of campus.

Ahmad said the purpose of the room is for students to engage in career or spiritual meditation.

"Although I had sent a proposal through the Muslim Student Association, [the lounge] is intended for all students, faculty, administration and anyone on campus to use for spiritual activities," Ahmad said.

According to Christina Esparza, USU communications coordinator, because the quiet lounge is an area for students to relax, reflect and meditate, talking, group studying, cellphone use and computer use are prohibited. More detailed regulations are posted in the lounge.

"I like that the quiet lounge is not very big," sophomore economics major, Anthony Valdez said. "The bigger the room, the more likely it is to get noisy, like the library, so I think it would be easier to focus in here and do my homework."

The lounge will be in a trial period until the end of this semester.

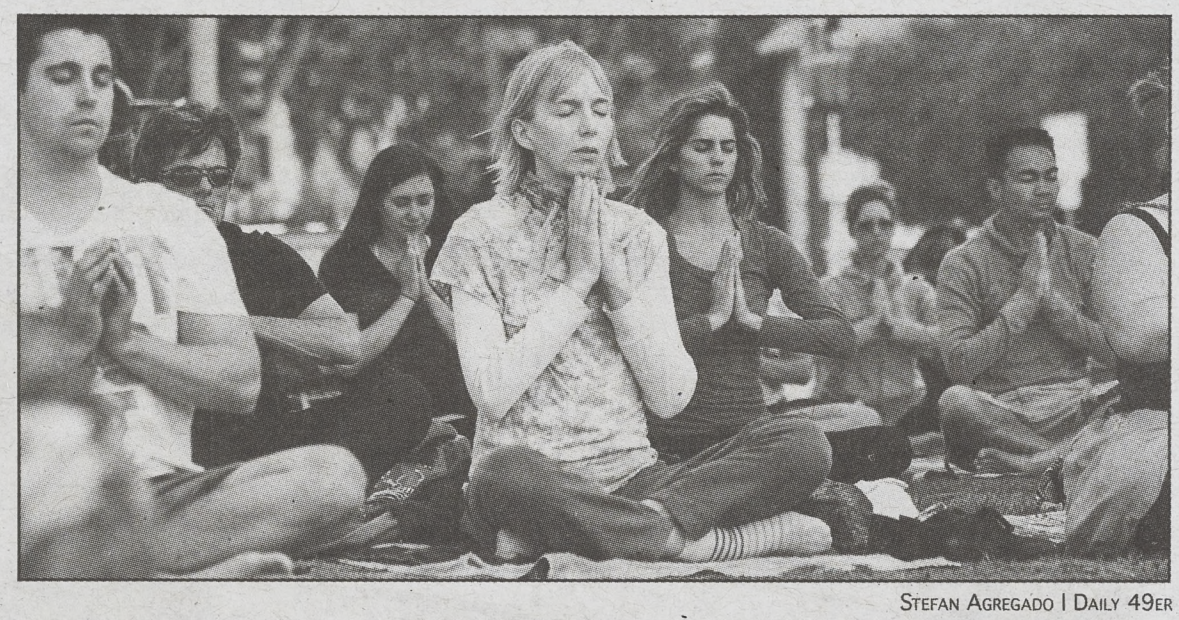
"We really hope that the students will take advantage of the quiet lounge so that there is a need for it to stay and help student life on campus," Ahmad said.

The quiet lounge is open from 7 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Yoga classes source of relaxation, not injury

Nationwide studies report yoga injuries, none on-campus.

By Alfred Pallarca
Contributing Writer



Stefan Agregado | Daily 49er

With a rise in yoga-related injuries, it's important to know one's physical limits.

Recent nationwide surveys have reported yoga participants experiencing pain and injury as a result of the activity.

At Cal State Long Beach, no injuries have been reported, and students continue to take classes at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center or as a semester-long one-unit yoga class.

Sophomore political science major Lacey Patalano took the yoga class last semester

"I wanted to tone up, and have more physical activity," Patalano said. "It might not seem physically demanding, but it certainly is."

Patalano said the class taught her proper ways of dealing with stress that she still uses in her everyday life.

Junior psychology major Stephanie Reynoso took a yoga class at the recreation center a few semesters ago.

"I was able to clear up my mind and focus on the good things in my life during the sessions," Reynoso said. "The stretches challenged my body and pushed my limits."

Though Reynoso has never been injured during or after her sessions, she said her body would be sore for days but eventually it would go away.

Yoga instructor Millie Sweesy-Barger said that some people don't realize how yoga benefits the body and the spirit.

"Yoga opens up your body and mind," Sweesy-Barger said. "It makes you focus on the more important things in life and away from materialistic things. It is a whole lifestyle that teaches you to be a better human being."

Sophomore Allen Lee, who took yoga last semester, said knowing your body's limit is how to avoid getting injured.

"If your body is in pain, then you should probably put less pressure in your stretches," he said.

According to Sweesy-Barger, no one in her class has claimed an injury.

"It's a pretty safe class," she said.

She encourages everyone to give yoga a try.

Republicans

Continued from Page 1

students are doing right now when they graduate," Hanna said.

Hanna said she feels as though Obama has made too many "empty promises." She said she doesn't know if she'll vote for him in the November election.

With Obama's popularity below 50 percent, Shurtz said the Republicans have a decent chance of reclaiming the White House.

But, in order to retake the White House, the Republican candidates need to highlight their differences from Obama.

Shurtz said some of the main differences are taxes and government spending.

"The Democrats generally want to have higher taxes so the government can do more … and the Republicans want to have lower taxes and have the government do less, and that's really the key debate right now," Shurtz said.

However, Long Beach State College Republican President Elizabeth Gamboa said she thinks it will be relatively simple for the Republican Party to win over voters.

"Barack Obama's shortcomings and a strong conservative is what will woo voters in 2012," Gamboa said via email.

More specifically, Gamboa believes illegal immigration is "an important factor in picking a presidential nominee."

On this issue, Gamboa said she thinks that Newt Gingrich is the stronger candidate when compared with Mitt Romney because of his criticism of so-called "sanctuary cities."

Yet, Kim Lam, a psychology major, said immigration isn't what she thinks is most important. Lam, an independent, said that the economy is the most significant issue in the presidential election season and she disagrees somewhat with Republican ideology over the role of the government.

"Sometimes, I see how government helps," Lam said. "Sometimes, I'm for socialized government."

In addition, Lam disagrees with the Republican stance on abortion and feels that the party is too polarizing. But if she had to vote Republican, she would choose Romney.

The Republican primary in California is scheduled for June 5. However, according to Shurtz, it is unlikely that any Californian, let alone younger students, will play a substantial role in the primaries.

Telpoxcalli@The Beach

Congratulations!

Brotherhood Service Scholarship
SAAB
Student African American Brotherhood

The CSULB Men's Success Program would like to congratulate these members for earning a 3.5 GPA or higher for Fall 2011.

Kevan Aguilar
Taharka Anderson
Matthew Gonzalez
Isidro Landa
Samuel Leija
Christopher Monzon
David Scott

California State University Long Beach 1949

Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB) Meetings
Wednesdays 4-5pm @ Multicultural Center (FO3-03)

Telpoxcalli (Latino Men's Success) Meetings
Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm @ Center for Community Engagement (AS-127)

For more information about the Men's Success Program, please contact 562-985-4181

Students trade notebooks for electronics

High-tech gadgets become the norm for note-taking.

By Jessica Rosales
Contributing Writer

Stefan Agregado | Daily 49er

Laptop use in class is becoming more common as students trade in their paper notebooks for electronic options.

The digital age is making its presence known on campus now more than ever as more students are replacing their paper notebooks with tablets and laptops.

Many students said they prefer electronics because answers are available at their fingertips and there is less weight to lug around campus.

"I'm going to start [using my iPad] because I don't want to carry around a bunch of notebooks," senior English major Erin Ousted said.

Jeannine Rosete, a junior biology major and iPad owner, said that "electronics are distracting," but, when used properly, are very helpful.

Rosete said her professors are weary of the potential problems electronics can cause, and they are not in favor of the paper substitute.

"Most of them do say it is OK to use laptops for taking notes, but if they see anyone on a social networking site, they will ask him or her to put their laptop away," Rosete said.

On the other hand, journalism professor Danny Paskin supports using electronics in class.

"In my opinion, we should be embracing these more and more, and finding new ways to incorporate these iPads, iPhones or iAnything … into our classrooms, as a way to help students learn," Paskin said via email. "Use it, not fight it."

Paskin, whose lecture courses usually take place in a computer lab, understands the interferences this setting can bring, but argues the benefits outweigh the consequences.

"This new generation has shown to be really good at multitasking — it has been called even a necessity, more than a quality," Paskin said.

It's not just notes that are becoming electronic, but textbooks as well. Electronic books, or eBooks, have become a cheaper option to help students keep up with their reading assignments.

"I hope, one day, every single textbook is available in e-format," Paskin said. "This will most likely make textbooks more affordable, make them easier to find and acquire, and make them easier to carry around. No more, 'Oops, forgot my book for this one class today.'"

However, it might take a bit more nudging for some students to go completely electronic.

"I wouldn't use my iPad because it's easier to take notes with pen and paper," senior child development major Sunny Lee said.

Even if some students don't use their new technology in class, they have found other uses to help pass the time on campus, like Rosete, who catches up on 'How I Met your Mother' during breaks.

Taxes

Continued from Page 1

VITA program gain experience in the technical aspects of tax preparation and learn about interacting with clients.

"It gives us the opportunity to work with people, we are not just tax preparers but also psychologists since we have to help people deal with the emotions around taxes," accounting major Tiffany Chow said.

Accounting major Erick Garcia said the program is about giving back to the community and getting the experience.

However, there are some limitations to qualify for the VITA program.

Program volunteers do not prepare business taxes and the services are only offered to those who earned less than $50,000 in 2011.

Please make sure you bring the following items:

- Photo ID
- Social Security Cards or Documents of Individual Taxpayer
- Identification Number (ITIN) for all family members
- All W-2's and 1099's (if any)
- Other Income/expense information
- Total Tuition Fees & Expenses Paid (1098-T)
- Total Expenses Paid for Child/Day Care
- Day Care or Dependent Care Provider's Address, Phone
- Identifying Number (SSN or EIN)
- Bank Account & Routing #'s (Voided Check) for Direct Deposit of Refund
- Last year's tax return would be extremely helpful, but not required

Top 1%

Continued from Page 1

potential of graduating in the subject.

"There are a lot of students competing for very few spots [in the programs], but we're here because this is where the money is, and this is where we're needed," Vu said.

Rianna Ramos, a sophomore kinesiology major, said the competition is too rough.

"I used to be a pre-med student before switching over," Ramos said. "It's nerve-racking when there's such a small chance just to get into the program and so many people wanting to get in. I wanted to be confident that I wasn't wasting time and money, and I'm still staying in the sciences ... just not pre-med."

She said she knew about the financial possibilities of pre-med and biology.

"I want a stable future and I'm working as hard as I can to make sure that happens, but I'm not doing this just for the money," she said. "I'd also like to graduate in a timely matter, too."

Grobar said she hopes students still choose their majors depending on what they truly enjoy, rather than being influenced by the economy or other factors.

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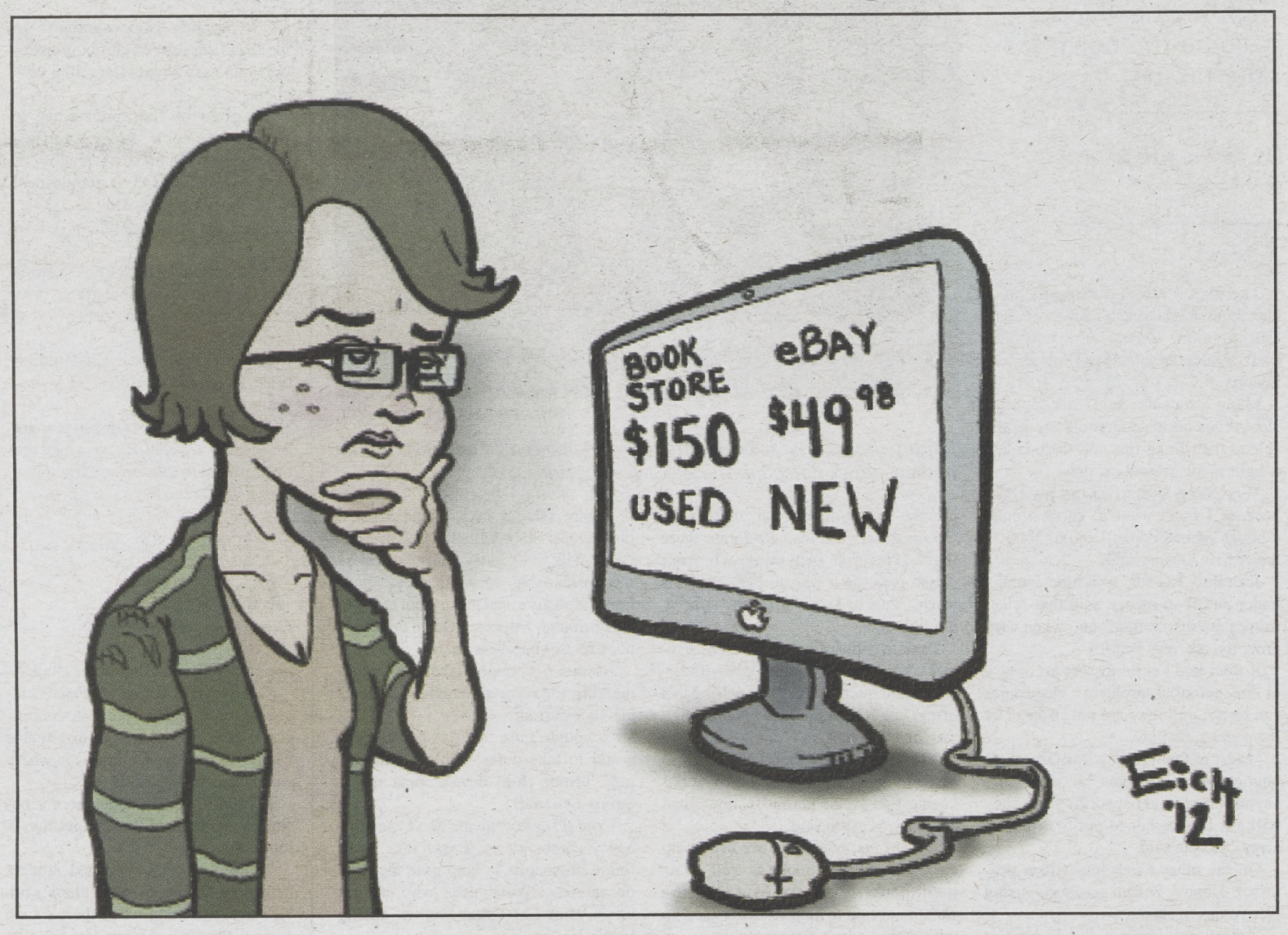
Bookstore should include more digital books



OUR VIEW

It's not shocking that less students are forking over large amounts of cash to purchase textbooks these days. Between the state of the economy and the many options for renting or downloading textbooks online, less and less students are heading to the campus bookstore.

Last week, our university bookstore said they incurred a net loss of $1.8 million in 2009. The loss was due to a 30 percent decrease in textbook sales over the past four years. With the release of the iPad and the growth of tablets since 2010, the bookstore's profit margins probably won't improve in the following years.

Last week, Apple announced their plans to revolutionize education by creating textbooks for the iPad. The textbooks would be fully immersive due to the abilities of the iPad, which Apple plans on getting into as many classrooms as possible.

With Apple getting into the textbook game, it's only going to get tougher for university bookstores to sell their textbooks. This is unfortunate because profits from our bookstore go back into our campus. Whether it's in the salaries of its student workers, scholarships, or donations to other on-campus facilities, all the money made at the bookstore benefits our campus.

However, with tighter restrictions being put on student loans recently, students are going to choose saving what little they have left in their wallets as opposed to saving the future of our bookstore. Bookstore prices are bloated and buyback prices are mostly a rip-off, so it makes sense that students are not relying on the bookstore as much as they did in the past.

There will be a time in the near future when everyone has a tablet they can use instead of having multiple textbooks. This makes sense. Why lug around three or four books everyday when you can have one light tablet you can carry under your arm? When this time comes, not only textbooks will be irrelevant, but paper, pens, folders and notebooks may be irrelevant as well.

When this time comes our bookstore will still exist, but it may look more like an Apple store than anything else. Instead of the shelves lined with textbooks there will be different brands of tablets to buy. At some point the bookstore workers may be replaced by an electronics vending machines like they have inside malls.

Whatever the future may bring, university bookstores currently need to find a way to keep students buying on campus. Offering rental options on sites like Chegg.com is a good option, but there is always going to be a place online where students can get their books at a cheaper price. Students also don't have to wait in outrageously long lines either. Cheap prices and more convenience will lure students away from the bookstore, causing our campus to lose even more money.

University bookstores can also keep students coming back by offering better buyback prices on some of their textbooks. Most students have purchased a really expensive book only to be disappointed when they hardly get anything when selling it back. Setting a buyback price for each textbook at purchase would make it less risky when buying a textbook. At least students will know what they will get back at the end of the semester.

We're still a few years away from education going fully digital. The time is now for university bookstores to start preparing for the inevitable change. The competition is only getting stronger now with juggernaut Apple getting into the game. As usual, many other companies will also try to follow Apple's lead. With technology progressing and competition strengthening, textbooks will soon join the junkyard of the past next to VHS, CDs and cassette tapes.

Starbucks is inviting rowdy patrons by selling beer and wine

LAWRENCE MAYBIR

The social landscape at Starbucks is about to see a drastic change. Normally a place filled with students frantically studying for their next big test, the new additions at Starbucks might also now attract students wanting a place to celebrate once the test is over. The coffee juggernaut plans to add another dimension to their menu by offering beer and wine at select locations in Southern California.

Although an increase in profits is definitely a possibility, the fact that a red flag the size of a school bus wasn't waved before making this decision is astonishing. Establishments that serve alcohol usually share very similar characteristics. These places are often loud, frenzied, and filled with an atmosphere that seems to never slow down. In other words, the exact opposite of what many Starbucks customers have come to love about their favorite coffee shop. The addition of beer and wine to the Starbucks menu introduces customer cautions and concerns that were never an issue in the past.

The biggest concern to Starbucks loyalists should be the addition of a new type of customer that will now be crash-landing on their coffee experience: the drunken customer. The executives at Starbucks must have tons of faith in the public's ability to know their drinking limit, because the inevitable wave of loud drunken customers should have been reason enough to simply stick to coffee.

Granted, many customers that grab their lattes and espressos on their way to work in the morning will go unaffected by the new menu items. The company states that participating locations will start serving alcohol after 2 p.m. on weekdays, which is long after the morning rush. However, there is one group of customers that will definitely notice the changes in atmosphere, the countless students that view Starbucks as their studying sanctuary.

Students flock to Starbucks knowing it is a place where they can focus, in which the biggest temptations consist of a little too much caffeine or some extra calories from a coffee cake. By introducing alcohol and a louder crowd, students will be subjected to the exact environment they were to trying to escape.

When it comes down to it, by filling cold glasses of beer and wine alongside their steaming cups of coffee and cappuccinos, Starbucks is risking its biggest asset, its identity.

The company has placed two completely different worlds on a collision course with the hopes of coexistence. Regardless of the outcome, curiosity will definitely be filling the seats. So let us raise our cups, glass or plastic, and embrace the inevitable crash.

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

Parents show immaturity in 'God of Carnage'

The play twists parental stereotypes with childlike antics.

By Sally Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Carlos Delgado

(From left) David Nevell, Leslie Stevens, Alet Taylor and Greg Derelian perform in "God of Carnage."

Patrons can get the chance to see the humor behind parents misbehaving in International City Theatre's production of "God of Carnage."

Written by French playwright Yasmina Reza and translated by Christopher Hampton, "God of Carnage" received both Broadway's Tony Award for Best Play and London's Olivier Award for Best Comedy. The play was also released as a major motion picture entitled "Carnage," directed by Roman Polanski.

"God of Carnage," directed by caryn desai, is ICT's first play of the 27th season, and fits in perfectly with the "Adults Behaving Badly" theme of the season.

This play brings two different sets of parents together to resolve an altercation, after their 11-year-old sons have a quarrel in the playground. Of course both couples believe issues like these can be settled through civilized communication like grown adults. Unfortunately, they soon realize how simple it is to resemble their children's immature way of communicating once questions of marriage, upbringing, career and ego come about.

The victim's parents are the hosts of the evening and depicted as the more concerned couple. Long Beach resident Greg Derelian plays the blue-collared father, Michael Novak. Although he cares about the well-being of his son, who just lost two teeth, it is easy to notice that his wife Veronica Novak (Leslie Stevens) is the coordinator who dragged her husband into this mess of an evening.

At the start of the play, Veronica is portrayed as a composed, caring citizen of the world who simply wants to do the right thing by inviting the culprit's parents over to discuss a plan of action for their sons. By the end of the play, Stevens does an impressive job at shifting her character to a drunken, emotional woman who joins the chaos of the evening after her precious book collection gets vomit spewed all over it.

Annette Raleigh (Alet Taylor) is the mother of the offender and constantly finds herself trying to gain the attention of her husband, Alan Raleigh (David Nevell), an attorney who pays more attention to his cellphone than his son's problems. This couple is depicted as the upper-class swanky set of parents, who soon break their posh demeanor once their parenting skills are questioned by the Novaks.

The two characters who bump heads the most throughout the play are Veronica, with her so-called peaceful resolutions, and Alan with his careless attitude and rude cellphone interruptions. While the spouses seem to be the perfect balance in their own marriages, Reza writes each individual character to perfectly represent all the different types of people in the real world — the middle-class buffoon who praises his masculinity, the advocate who tries to resolve what's wrong in the world, the corporate jerk who only cares about himself and the bipolar pushover who only lets loose after a few drinks.

Eventually, the night becomes a battle of the sexes once the women find out how to attack the men where it really hurts — questioning Michael's manliness and cutting off Alan's source to the outside world by dropping his cellphone into a vase. The men retaliate by bringing out the rum and cigars, and being insubordinate with their wives.

For a play about manners, without any manners, "God of Carnage" runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m., Jan. 27 through Feb. 19. Tickets are $37 on Thursdays; and $44 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

International City Theatre is located in the Long Beach Performing Arts Center at 300 E. Ocean Blvd. in Long Beach.

Campus Calendar

Jan. 31

Student art galleries
The **art department** presents **Foundation Zones-Sculpture 4D** from **noon to 5 p.m.** The galleries are located in the **FA2 and FA3**. Admission is **free**.

'Metal Machine Trio'
The **University Art Museum** presents **"Lou Reed, Metal Machine Trio: The Creation of the Universe"** from **noon to 5 p.m.** Admission is **free** for students and **$4** for general admission.

Daniel Shapiro
The **Bob Cole Conservatory** presents **Visiting Guest Artist Series: Daniel Shapiro, piano,** at **8 p.m.** in the **Gerald Daniel Recital Hall.** Admission is **$7** for students and **$10** for general admission.

Steampunk mixed media art show
Warehouse 1333 presents a **steampunk mixed media art show** from **11 a.m. to 7 p.m.** The gallery is located at **1333 Redondo Ave.** Admission is **free**.

Twitter: @D49erDiversions

'The Grey' film thrills, shows realistic situations

The film has great effects and plays with emotions.

By Matt Grippi
Staff Writer

Liddell Entertainment

Liam Neeson stars in "The Grey," released in theaters on Jan. 27.

"The Grey," directed by Joe Carnahan, has been marketed as an action-thriller in the vein of "Taken," in which Liam Neeson fist-fights a pack of wolves. The trailers are misleading. It is not like that at all; it's much better.

"The Grey" stars Neeson as Ottway, a depressed man working as a sniper killing wolves on an oil drilling plant in Alaska. While taking a trip back to civilization to see loved ones, his plane crashes, leaving Ottway and a few other survivors stranded in the frozen Alaskan wild.

The film is more about survival than it is about action, and the wolves are just one of many things that threaten the survivors as they try to make it home. They have to struggle to find food and shelter, and keep from freezing to death.

That is not to say there are not action-packed moments in the film. At times the film is structured like a horror movie, with the wolves playing the role of the killers, stalking their prey. Despite some questionable CGI, the wolves are effectively terrifying once it is made clear that they are not afraid of the humans, and they see them as a threat. Although the wolves act more like monsters than actual wild animals, the film makes it believable.

What makes the "The Grey" different than an average survival thriller is the way it treats the characters. The survivors start off as a fairly bland group of clichés, like the "family man who has to get back to his daughter" (Dermot Mulroney) and the "young stupid one" (Joe Anderson). However, as the film progresses, each one of these characters is humanized and made believable.

The worst of the clichés is Diaz (Frank Grillo), who plays the obnoxious naysayer and constantly complains and disparages Ottway and his plans. In an ordinary thriller, a character like he would be the first to die, but instead the film slowly reveals more about him until he becomes relatable and sympathetic.

The film spends enough time on each character to make the audience care about whether they live or die. Every death is dealt with realistically, and with the appropriate amount of respect and time. The deaths matter, and they clearly affect the other survivors when they lose friends. This is refreshing to see in a movie that could have easily just picked off the other characters as soon as possible to make way for Neeson.

Neeson's portrayal of Ottway is interesting. He doesn't play him like his character in "Taken," who is constantly one step ahead of his enemy and always makes the right decisions. He is just a scared man who wants to believe that he can survive this but really doesn't know how. He makes mistakes, which makes him seem more human than some of the other over-the-top action-movie characters that he's played lately.

This was an interesting and refreshing choice for Carnahan, whose past few films have been big-budget cartoonish action films like "Smokin' Aces" and "The A-team." Those films are fun, but they don't take themselves very seriously. This film was unexpectedly dark and quiet, with some legitimately beautiful cinematography along the way.

The Grey

Did we dig it?

Starring: Liam Neeson, Dermot Mulroney, Frank Grillo
Rated: R
Opens: Jan. 27, 2012

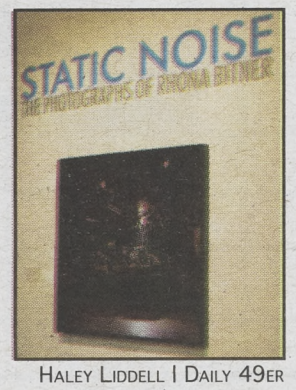
"The Grey" is a film that is definitely going to surprise audiences. Unfortunately for some people, it might be for the wrong reasons. People who went into this film expecting what they saw in the trailers aren't going to get as many wolf-punches as they hoped for. However, for fans of Liam Neeson and people who want to see an unexpectedly great thriller in January, this film will not disappoint.

'Static Noise' brings new energy to UAM

By Angela Ratzlaff
Contributing Writer

Music lovers can currently get a taste of nostalgia in the University Art Museum. New York photographer Rhona Bitner presents "Static Noise," and a preview of her latest project, "Listen."

Bitner's photos showcase abandoned venues and empty recording studios known for their mark in American music history. Attendees are able to tie the photos back to iconic performances that had once occurred in the various locations. Bitner wanted to make sure that viewers accepted the images for what they are now.



Haley Liddell | Daily 49er

"Static Noise" is shown at the UAM until April 15.

The idea of photographing old venues came to Bitner by mistake. According to Bitner, she planned to finalize her previous photo series, "Stage," with a photo of the now closed Country, Blue Grass and Blues music club (CBGB). According to Amanda Fruta, director of Public Relations at the UAM, the photo of CBGB was supposed to tie in the notion of performance, but instead it inspired Bitner to explore the idea of capturing an energy in historic venues.

The photos give attendees a peek into Bitner's latest project, "Listen," —still a work in progress.

"The exhibition includes a very small selection of the images," Bitner said. "As of now, there are [more than] 200 images in the work and there will be more."

Like "Stage," the photos for "Static Noise" are able to grab hold of viewers' attentions with vivid colors and stark compositions.

One particular photo of the Detroit Grande Ballroom leaves attendees in awe. Once housing performances of the early punk and Detroit garage rock scenes, with house bands including Iggy Pop and the Stooges and the MC5, the building is now in a dilapidated state with debris covering the floor.

The image leaves viewers with a melancholy feeling, making them realize that what was once there has passed.

Others had the chance to see the venues in a different light. John Bafa, musician and sound technician for Lou Reed's "Metal Machine Trio," had once played on the stage of CBGB.

"I feel that it really captured what had once been there. It brings back the energy [of CBGB]," Bafa said.

Many saw the photos as a window into the past. However, Bitner reassures viewers that the photos should bear no resonance of the historical performances.

Bitner's dismissal of nostalgia allows the viewer see the venues as they are right now. Individuals have the ability to experience the photos on a more personal level, rather than connecting them to the performances of the past.

"Static Noise" will be shown at the UAM until April 15. Students and guests can visit the exhibit on Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 5 p.m.; Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays through Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

To view more of Bitner's work, visit her website at rhonabitner.com.

UGLAND: Ennis key to 49ers' success

The junior is growing into his role as the season progresses.

By Devin Ugland
Sports Editor

The challenge for James Ennis when he chose to come play basketball at Long Beach State, was fitting into a starting lineup — which already had four seniors who had been playing together for the last three seasons.

The growing and learning processes are now over for the lanky junior, who has inserted himself as the 'X-factor' on both ends of the court.

Ennis was brought to the 49ers as a guy who could replace departing senior Greg Plater in the starting lineup.

Now that the versatile wing player has had time to adjust to the Division I level, he is flourishing in his role as the fifth starter.

On the season, Ennis is averaging 10.3 points on 50 percent from the field, 3.7 rebounds and 2.6 assists per contest.

While his numbers may not seem overbearing, the intangibles he brings to the floor on a nightly basis are what make him so important to the success of the 'Niners.

The 6-foot-7, 200-pound Ennis does not have a specific position. I, among others, classify him as a wing player because of his ability to play both the guard and forward positions.

His vast wingspan makes him a nightmare defensively for opposing teams. Not only is he one of the 'Niners best on-ball defenders, but he also heads the 1-2-2 press that LBSU head coach Dan Monson likes to institute to give opponents a different look.

Offensively, Ennis creates mismatches all over the floor. While the other team's best defenders are busy trying to lock up seniors' Casper Ware and Larry Anderson — Ennis has become the forgotten man.

After LBSU's 14-point victory over Cal State Fullerton on Saturday night, Anderson said that the team wants Ennis to be more aggressive.

"We tell him all the time that he needs to be more aggressive," Anderson said. "They [opponents] key in on the seniors and they don't really pay attention to him."

Anderson added: "I've been telling him since he's been here to be more aggressive. I think he's starting to realize he can take over games, just like we [the seniors] can."

At the time, Anderson didn't know that Ennis had just taken over his first game.

The junior scored 13 of his team-high 19 points in the final seven minutes to lead the 49ers to their ninth straight victory — keeping The Beach perfect in Big West play.

The Titans didn't know it either.

While they were busy keying on stopping Ware (11 points on 4 of 10 shooting), Ennis was single-handedly willing the 'Niners to victory after CSUF had pulled within two points with 8:40 left to play.

Ennis has had some of his best games against the top competition that the 'Niners have faced this season.

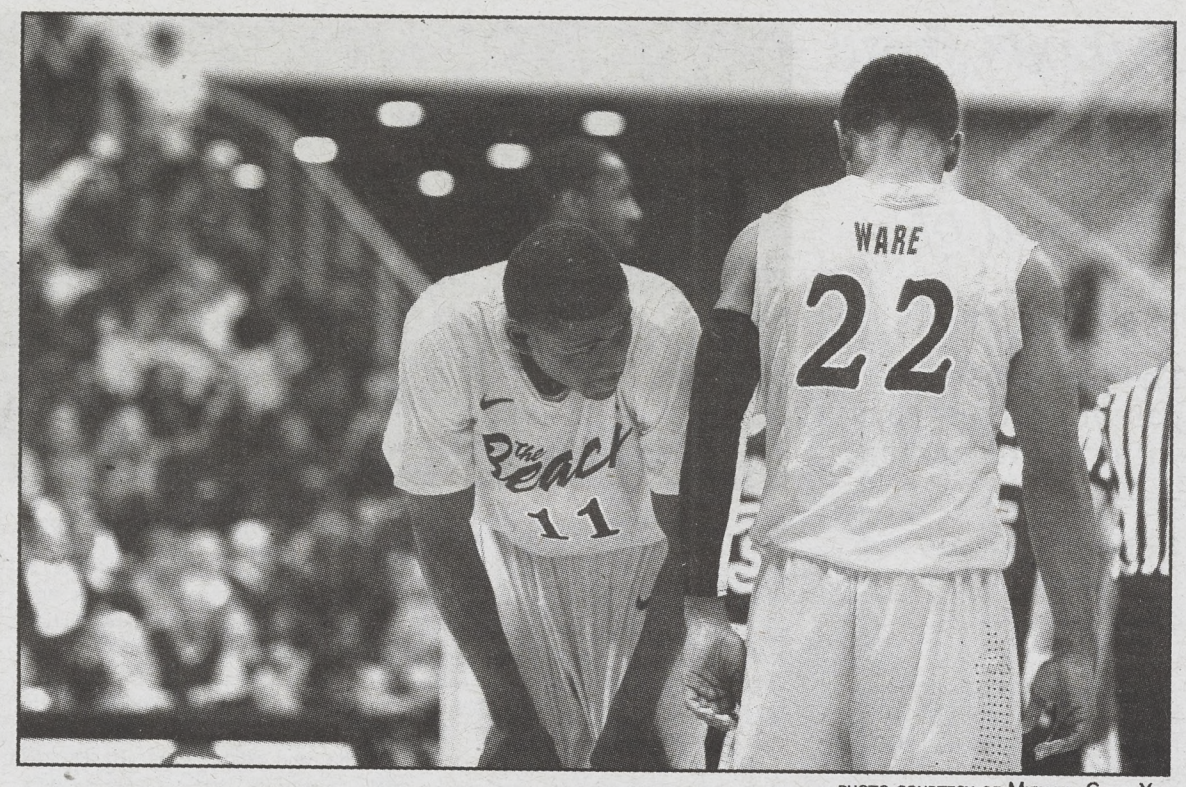


PHOTO COURTESY OF Michael Chan Yee

With opposing defenses focused on Casper Ware (22), junior James Ennis (11) has been called upon to be an offensive force this season.

He scored 19 points on 6 of 10 shooting in LBSU's upset (now not-so-upset) victory over No. 9-ranked Pittsburgh in November. He also dished out six assists and grabbed five steals in that contest.

Ennis dropped 16 points on 5 of 7 shooting against now No. 8-ranked Kansas, while grabbing six steals. In a semi-homecoming game against UC Santa Barbara a few weeks ago, he had 14 points on 6 of 8 shooting, including three steals.

It's obvious that Ware and the other three seniors are the go-to options when it comes to the 49ers offensive attack, but if The Beach is to make some noise in the Big West Conference and NCAA tournaments, Ennis is the key.

His ability to provide momentum-changing dunks, anchor a defensive scheme, score off the dribble and spread the floor from 3-point range, makes Ennis one of the most dangerous pieces of the 'Niners attack.

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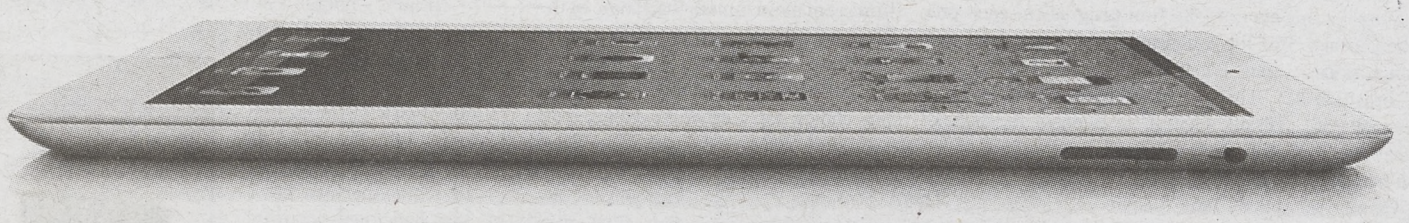

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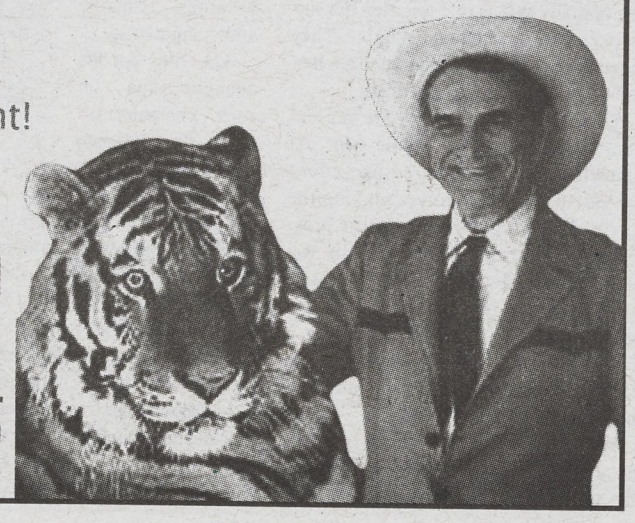

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